

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5212

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E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJ: 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD (MDB), MAY 27, 1976

1. THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD (MDB) WILL BE HOSTED BY THE AMBASSADOR ON MAY 27. IN VIEW OF THE IMPENDING RESUMPTION OF BASE TALKS AND THE KEY OPERATIONAL ROLE WE INTEND TO ASCRIBE TO THE MDB IN THE BASE AGREEMENT WE SEEK IN THOSE TALKS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE PAY SPECIAL TRIBUTE AT THIS MEETING TO THE MDB'S PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND REGISTER OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE IMPORTANT ROLE IT WILL PLAY IN THE FUTURE. IN THIS LIGHT, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE SECRETARY, AS THE US MEMBER OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY'S COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, TO SEND A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THE MDB WHICH COULD BE READ BY THE AMBASSADOR AT THE OPENING OF THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

2. SUGGEST MESSAGE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

QUOTE: I WISH TO EXTEND MY BEST WISHES TO THE PHILIPPINE-UNITED STATES MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD ON THE OCCASION OF ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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18TH ANNIVERSARY. AS THE UNITED STATES MEMBER OF THE

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE PHILIPPINE-UNITED STATES MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY OF 1951, I REGRET THAT I CANNOT PERSONALLY BE WITH YOU TO CONVEY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD MY APPRECIATION AND MY ADMIRATION FOR THEIR ENERGY AND EFFICIENCY IN FURTHERING THE SECURITY OBJECTIVES WHICH OUR TWO NATIONS SHARE. AS THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES PROCEED TOWARD THE FUTURE WITH THE DIGNITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT OF SOVEREIGN AND EQUAL ALLIES, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE MAINTAIN THE OPEN COMMUNICATION REQUIRED TO INSURE THAT OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES OF WORLD PEACE, REGIONAL STABILITY AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE ARE SECURED. THE MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD HAS PROVEN THAT IT CAN PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN THIS CONTINUING ENDEAVOR. I WISH THE BOARD CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS TO COME. END QUOTE.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE APPROVAL BY MAY 23 FOR AMBASSADOR TO READ ABOVE MESSAGE (OR OTHER APPROVED TEXT) AT MAY 27 MEETING.
SULLIVAN

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